

8. PLUMERIA Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 209. 1753.

鸡蛋花属 *ji dan hua shu*

Trees with copious latex. Branchlets 2–3 cm thick, nearly fleshy. Leaves alternate, long petiolate. Cymes terminal, 2- or 3-branched, pedunculate; bracts usually large, deciduous before anthesis. Flowers fragrant, waxy. Calyx small, without glands. Corolla white, yellowish, pink-red, or rose-purple, funnelform; tube narrow, hairy inside, faucal scales absent; lobes overlapping to left. Stamens inserted at or near base of corolla tube; anthers free from pistil head, oblong, rounded at base; disc absent. Ovaries 2, distinct; ovules numerous, multiseriate on each placenta. Style short; pistil head with obtusely 2-cleft apex. Follicles 2. Seeds many, flat proximally, with a membranous wing; endosperm fleshy; cotyledons oblong, radicle short.

Seven species: tropical America, two cultivated in China.

- 1a. Leaf blade acute or acuminate at apex, matte adaxially, glaucous 1. *P. rubra*
1b. Leaf blade rounded at apex, shiny adaxially, dark green 2. *P. obtusa*

1. *Plumeria rubra* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 209. 1753.

鸡蛋花 *ji dan hua*

Plumeria acuminata Aiton; *P. acutifolia* Poiret; *P. rubra* var. *acutifolia* (Poiret) L. H. Bailey.

Trees to 8 m tall. Bark pale green, smooth, thin. Petiole to 7 cm; leaf blade elliptic to very narrowly so, 14–30 × 6–8 cm, glaucous adaxially, apex acute or acuminate; lateral veins 30–40 pairs, slightly elevated abaxially. Corolla tinged with pink or purple at least outside, 4–6 cm in diam.; lobes pink, yellow, or white, with a yellow base, 3–4.5 × 1.5–2.5 cm, obliquely spreading. Follicles oblong, 11–25 × 2–3 cm. Fl. Mar-Sep, fr. Jun-Dec. $2n = 36$.

Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Yunnan [native to Mexico and Central America].

Widely cultivated for medicine and as ornamental. The flowers are used for the treatment of dysentery. The small, white-flowered form is more valued medicinally in China than other forms of the species.

2. *Plumeria obtusa* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 210. 1753.

钝叶鸡蛋花 *dun ye ji dan hua*

Trees to 5 m tall. Branchlets pale green, thick, fleshy. Petiole puberulent; leaf blade obovate to narrowly so, dark green and shiny adaxially, tertiary venation strongly prominent abaxially, apex rounded. Corolla white, ca. 4 cm in diam., throat yellow; lobes spreading, slightly recurved. Follicles to 15 × 1.5 cm. $2n = 36$.

Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, S Yunnan [native of the Caribbean Islands].

Cultivated for medicine and as an ornamental.

